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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 9 January 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the statement on the situation in Kosovo made on 21 December 1994 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary and Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (A/49/813-S/1994/1445).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe" and "Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement made on 5 January 1995 by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia

On 21 December 1994, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, László Kovács, in his capacity of Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), made a statement on the situation in Kosovo (A/49/813-S/1994/1445).

This uncalled-for statement constitutes an abuse of the human rights theme it purportedly relates to, as well as an abuse of the status of the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE. It seeks to misrepresent the arrest of members of an illegal paramilitary and para-police organization in Kosovo and Metohija, created for the purpose of armed and forcible secession of a part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as "repression" and the "violation of basic human rights and of the fundamental norms of CSCE". In this connection, reference is made to some "events" in Raška and Vojvodina, without any explanation as to what they could be related to. This unargumented statement constitutes direct interference into internal affairs and an attempt to internationalize an internal question of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under the pretext of concern for human rights.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary should know much better the actual situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In that case, his statement, in line with the previous statements by the Government of Hungary, would reflect a greater degree of good intention towards neighbouring Yugoslavia. It would be normal to expect from the Foreign Minister that he supplement his knowledge with facts before making such categorical statements and before displaying such concern for, or even requesting the release of, "unjustly detained persons". His function also implies the knowledge that the Yugoslav Constitution and laws guarantee human rights and freedoms to all members of national minorities in accordance with valid European and world standards. The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have also been exerting maximum efforts in the present conditions of unjust sanctions to ensure that all Yugoslav citizens, irrespective of their nationality, exercise all their constitutionally guaranteed rights and obligations.

It comes therefore as a surprise that a legitimate action by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, taken in protection of the constitutional order, which is what any country would do in a similar situation, is presented without any foundation as a violation of human rights. No State upholding the rule of law will tolerate the establishment and activity in its territory of illegal paramilitary and para-police forces, least of all activity directed towards the forcible destruction of its democratic constitutional order.

No matter in which capacity Mr. Kovács made the statement, the tone and wording employed in an attempt to impose unconditional demands on a sovereign State is absolutely unacceptable. On the other hand, it does not contribute to good-neighbourly relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Hungary. Instead of requests for the "unconditional return of an OSCE mission

of longer duration", it was to be expected from Foreign Minister Kovács, in his capacity of Chairman-in-Office of OSCE, that he would launch an initiative for the full-fledged return of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to OSCE, whereby the door would be opened to new negotiations on the resumption of OSCE missions similar to those whose mandate has expired. The return to OSCE of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, one of its founders, is not only in the interest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Hungary, but also of security, peace and cooperation in Europe.

As a founding OSCE participating State, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains committed to all its principles. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is lastingly determined to develop good-neighbourly cooperation on the basis of equality, full mutual respect and non-interference, which is in the interest of all countries of the region and Europe. Such an attitude is expected from all neighbouring and OSCE participating States.

We therefore call upon Hungary to accord its activities in international forums and organizations with its declared orientation and expressed interest to develop with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia good-neighbourly cooperation and relations, confirmed during bilateral talks, including the meeting between the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Zoran Lilić, and the President of Hungary, Mr. Arpad Goencz.